(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any official has been found involved in the racket; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, stating their *modus operandi* and the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a foreign national has been arrested by West Bengal Police on the charges of spying on Proof & Experimental Establishment (PXE), Chandipur, the test range for gun and ammunition systems. Based on investigation the police has arrested 11 more persons including two lower grade employees of PXE, Chandipur. Investigation by senior officials of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have confirmed that no classified information was lost due to the organisational procedure of transmission of information on need to know basis.

(c) No Defence scientist/engineer has been found involved in the racket.

(d) Does not arise.

Shifting of firing range in Hyderabad

1380. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the civilian population on the outskirts of Hyderabad is on constant threat on account of continuous firing practice of the army; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to shift and construct new firing range farther away from the city, to provide necessary safety to the civilians?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Except for land measuring 225 acres which was acquired in 1996 by the CRPF and around which habitation has come up adjoining the small arms range which has been in existence since 1964, there are no other developments in the area. During the last 3 years no case of injury or death has been

reported. Government of Andhra Pradesh, who have been approached, has not indicated any alternative site for the range.

Pak attacks in Uri and Karnah Sectors

1381. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistani Army is stepping up attacks along the 60 km Line of Control between Uri and Karnah sectors in Kashmir Valley, in a determined attempt to create another Kargil like situation on the border; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Pakistani troops attacked our posts on two occasions between Uri and Karnah along the Line of Control. These attacks were attempted on 22nd October, 1999 and 9th November, 1999. Both of them were repulsed, resulting in Pakistan suffering 17 fatal casualties. Our troops suffered three killed and nine wounded.

A constant vigil is maintained on the border by our troops who are trained, equipped and motivated to give an appropriate response to any misadventure of this kind.

Export of weapons

1382. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to export India made weapons;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the factories where these weapons can be manufactured; and

(c) whether Government have also identified the countries to which these weapons would be exported?